

December 12, 2005

The Honorable Göran Persson
Prime Minister of Sweden
Statsrådsberedningen
Regeringskansliet
113 33 Stockholm
Sweden
Via e-mail: registrator@primeminister.ministry.se

Dear Mr. Persson:

As the founding co-chairmen of the Peak Oil Caucus of the United States House of Representatives, we are writing to commend you and the government of Sweden for the December 13, 2005 hearing about peak oil by the newly established National Commission on Oil Independence. It provides an important opportunity to discuss the imperative for achieving the goal of ensuring Sweden's independence from oil by 2020.

One hundred years ago at the start of the age of oil, world population was one billion. Now it's seven billion. Oil and the cheap energy it made possible has utterly transformed America and the world. In a very real sense, oil feeds the world.

During the 1940s and 1950s, American scientist M. King Hubbert identified that oil field production follows a bell curve reaching a peak of maximum production capacity when approximately half of the oil has been extracted. In 1956, he predicted that the United States would peak in production in 1970. He was right. 33 of 48 major oil producing nations have now peaked. Today, experts differ only on the timing of global peak oil. With world demand for oil increasing exponentially and no ready substitute of comparable energy density, the prospect of future and continuing declines in world oil production will inflict unprecedented pressures upon our people and national and international social, economic, and political institutions.

We have introduced legislation with twelve colleagues, House Resolution 507 (H.R. 507), which expresses "the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States, in collaboration with other international allies, should establish an energy project with the magnitude, creativity, and sense of urgency that was incorporated in the 'Man on the Moon' project to address the inevitable challenges of 'Peak Oil'."

Only through a combination of conservation and innovations in improved efficiency, and alternate and renewable sources of energy will we be able to meet the energy demands of the future. The National Commission on Oil Independence appointed by the government of Sweden is creating a model effort for the world in partnership with the private sector. We are very pleased that one of the Commission Members, Mr. Leif Johansson, Managing Director Volvo Trucks, represents a company that has chosen to partner with American businesses, such as Mack Truck, Inc., whose factory located in one of our districts has developed a hybrid electric powertrain. These types of partnerships will lead

to greater innovation in energy efficiency and alternatives to contribute to achieving the goal of energy independence from oil.

We welcome the opportunity to become informed about the continuing efforts of the National Commission on Oil Independence and to initiate exchanges of information and opportunities for collaborative efforts by the Commission and the Peak Oil Caucus to benefit our citizens and our world.

Sincerely,

Roscoe G. Bartlett
Member of Congress

Tom Udall
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Gunnar Lund
Ambassador of Sweden to the United States of America